

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 188

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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PASS STR

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJECT: MTN:PREPARATION FOR FEB 11 TNC MEETING

REF: EC BRUSSELS 0637 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN FIRST MEETING OF 7 PLUS 7 GROUP TO PLAN FOR FEB 11 TNC MEETING, MOST REPS ENDORSED STRONG NECESSITY MAKE TNC SESSION A VISIBLE SUCCESS AND GET SUBSTANTIVE MTN WORK UNDERWAY ON BROAD FRONT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WITH EXCEPTION CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, DCS HAS LARGELY SIMILAR VIEWS ON EMPHASIS OF INITIAL WORK. LDCS PREDICTABLY STRESSED NEED FOR SPECIAL AND URGENT ATTENTION TO AREAS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO THEM, INCLUDING "RULES OF NEGOTIATIONS." FULL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE TNC SUBGROUP STRUCTURE DEFERRED BY TACIT AGREEMENT IN VIEW OF US/EC DIFFERENCES OVER AGRICULTURE. ON UNCTAD OBSERVER ISSUE, DCS ATTEMPTED SHOW UNITED FRONT ALONG LINES TDB RESOLUTION, BUT LDCS INSISTED ISSUE STILL OPEN. NEXT MEETING OF 7 PLUS 7 SET FOR JAN 30 (10 AM) TO GO INTO MORE DETAIL ON SUBSTANCE AND EXPLORE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES FURTHER. END SUMMARY.

2. GATT DG LONG HELD MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS OF 7 PLUS 7 GROUP ON JAN 24 TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR TNC MEETING HE HAS SCHEDULED FOR FEB 11. LONG INTRODUCED DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC TOPICS WITH GENERAL STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT TNC MEETING SHOULD MARK BEGINNING OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMONSTRATE TO WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE THAT GOVERNMENTS NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN IMPLEMENTING TOKYO DECLARATION. STATEMENTS OF 7 PLUS 7 REPS UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORT OF THIS VIEW.

3. TARIFFS. LONG SUGGESTED THAT BY END OF TNC MEETING, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HAVE DECLARED THEMSELVES READY TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC AND GENERAL ELEMENTS OF A

TARIFF NEGOTIATING PLAN. ALL DCS AGREED. US REP (KELLY), WHILE NOTING TRADE ACT ADVISORY REQUIREMENTS, SAW DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL TARIFF FORMULA AS MAJOR PIECE OF EARLY WORK AND SUGGESTED DEADLINE OF MID-SUMMER TO DEVELOP TENTATIVE FORMULA. JAPAN (MIZOGUCHI) URGED EVEN MORE RAPID PROGRESS. AUSTRALIA (WARWICK-SMITH) ADDED AMBIGUOUS RESERVATION THAT A TARIFF PLAN WOULD NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF NTBS AFFECTING SEPCIFIC ITEMS, WORK IN SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND SAFEGUARD MEASURES BEING CONTEMPLATED (IMPLICATION SEEMED TO BE AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN ITEM-BY-ITEM NEGOTIATIONS). LDCS WHO SPOKE (MALAYSIA, MEXICO, ARGENTINA, PAKISTAN) INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN HOW TARIFF PLAN WILL PROVIDE FOR TOKYO DECLARATION GOAL OF MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING GSP. ARGENTINA COMPLAINED THAT LDCS STILL WAITING TO KNOW SCOPE AND CONTENT OF ONE MAJOR GSP SCHEME AND QUESTIONED DEVELOPING GENERAL TARIFF PLAN BEFORE ANSWER WAS CLEAR. LDCS ALSO CONCERNED WITH TARIFF ESCALATION PROBLEM HUNGARY STATED PARTICULAR MTN INTEREST OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN TARIFF REDUCTIONS.

4. NON-TARIFF BARRIERS (NTBS). DG CITED NEED TO IDENTIFY NTBS OF BROAD INTEREST ON WHICH PROGRESS CLEARLY POSSIBLE. ALL REPS AGREED.) IT WAS IMPOR- TANT TO MAKE EARLY SHOWING OF FEASIBILITY OF NTB NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN IF THIS MEANT DELAYING WORK ON MOST DIFFICULT NTBS UNTIL LATER. US AGREED WITH NEED FOR RAPID PROGRESS AND INDICATED WE WHOULD LIKE TO TRY OUT TRADE ACT NTB PROVISIONS EARLY ON. WE SUGGESTED STANDARDS, SUBSIDIES AND POSSIBLY GOVERNMENT PROCURE- MENT AS SUITABLE TOPICS OF MULTILATERAL INTEREST AND TRADE IMPORTANCE. BILATERAL NTBS COULD BE ATTACKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOMEWHAT LATER WHEN GENEVA MTN DELEGATIONS WERE STAFFED UP. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS INCLUDING EC CAUTIONED THAT TRYING TO SET CRITERIA FOR PICKING PRIORITY NTB NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS AND LOW DOWN WORK; BETTER APPROACH WOULD BE MORELY TO CONTINUE CURRENT WORK PROGRAM AND PRAGMATICALLY MOVE AHEAD ON MOST PROMISING ITEMS. JAPAN URGED COMPLETION OF AT LEAST ONE AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT BY MID-SUMMER. (IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS JAPANESE RECALLED THEIR INTEREST IN AGREEMENT ON CUSTOMS VALUATION PRACTICES.) AUSTRALIA MENTIONED "POSSIBLE INTEREST IN SOME ASPECTS" OF SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAILING DUTIES (CVD). CANADA (M. CLARK) LISTED NTB INTEREST AS SUBSIDIES/CVD, PACKAGING-LABELLING/STARDARDS, IMPORT DOCUMENTATION (INCLUDING EMBARGOES), AND REVIEW OF ANTIDUMPING CODE,

WITH POSSIBILITY OF MORE ITEMS TO MENTION AT TNC. LDCS
STUCK TO GENERALITIES ON NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THOSE
NTBS MOST BURDENSOME TO THEM (ALTHOUGH MEXICO AGREED WITH
FOCUS SUGGESTED BY US).

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5. AGRICULTURE. LONG OBSERVED THAT "AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS" WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS IN MTN. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AVOIDED BY LONG AND MOST DC AND LDC REPS (WITH EXCEPTION ARGENTINA), IN ORDER NOT FORCE UNRESOLVED US/EC ISSUE ON TNC HANDLING OF AGRICULTURE (REFTEL, PARA 7). ONLY US MENTION OF AGRICULTURE WAS INDICATION WE HOPED TO HAVE MORE TO SAY NEXT WEEK. EC (LUYTEN) SUGGESTED THAT NUMBER OF AGRICULTURE PROBLEMS WOULD NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED AND INCLUDED IN INITIAL NEGOTIATING PROGRAM; WORK WOULD THEN NEED TO PROGRESS "IN PARALLEL FASHION" WITH REST OF NEGOTIATIONS. JAPAN STATED PREFERENCE FOR APPROACH ENUMERATED PARA 3E OF TOKYO DECLARATION (MIZOGUCHI LATER EXPLAINED PRIVATELY HE MEANT SUBSTANCE OF PARA 3E, NOT 3E GROUP OF TNC). AUSTRALIA CALLED FOR ATTENTION TO "PARTICULAR AND TANGIBLE" IN AGRICULTURE, I.E., COMMODITY AND PRODUCT PROBLEMS. TRADE IN SOME AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS NOTED FOR INSTABILITY, OTHERS HAD NO SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS WHATEVER. ARGENTINA, FORESAKING BREVITY OF OTHERS, MADE FORCEFUL LENGTHY STATEMENT QUESTIONING SPECIAL NEGOTIATING APPROACH ON AGRICULTURE. SAW TARIFFS AND NTBS AS KEY IMPEDIMENTS TO MARKET ACCESS FOR MANY PRODUCTS, THOUGH MUCH OF AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE TAKEN UP UNDER GENERAL NTB AND TARIFF PLANS. (EC UNSETTLED BY THIS BUT DID NOT REPLY.) PAKISTAN ONLY OTHER LDC TO SPEAK, NOTING IMPORTANCE OF FISH SECTOR, ESPECIALLY PRAWNS AND SHRIMP. HUNGARY STRESSED EASTERN EUROPEAN INTEREST IN TOKYO ROUND LIBERALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE TRADE.

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6. TROPICAL PRODUCTS. DG SAW THIS AS PRACTICAL PROBLEM OF SETTING UP NEGOTIATIONS SO AS TO GIVE SPECIAL PRIORITY PROMISED BY TOKYO DECLARATION. DCS ALL RECONFIRMED AGREEMENT TO PRIORITY TREATMENT, AUSTRALIA SAYING TROPICAL PRODUCT DISCUSSIONS IN OTHER FORUMS WOULD NEED FITTING INTO MTN. LDCS GENERALLY FOLLOWED LINE OF MALAYSIA (LAI) THAT TROPICAL PRODUCT NEGOTIATIONS MUST MOVE FASTER THAN REST OF MTN; LDCS SHOULD NOT WASTE TIME CAREFULLY DEFINING PRODUCTS BUT GET REQUEST LISTS TO RESPECTIVE DCS QUICKLY. IN AFTERNOON SESSION LONG OBSERVED THAT IN LIGHT OF LDC UNANIMITY ON THIS, IT NOW UP TO THEM TO INDICATE DESIRED SPECIFICS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS.

7. SECTORS. DG AND MOST COUNTRY REPS AGREED WORK ON SPECIFIC SECTORS NOT RPT NOT DESIRABLE PENDING DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL RULES ON TARIFFS, NTBS, ETC. --AFTER WHICH SECTORS COULD BE APPROACHED ON EXCEPTIONS BASED. LONG ALSO CITED NEED TO WAIT FOR SECRETARIAL COMPLETION OF DOCUMENTATION ALREADY UNDERWAY ON SECTORS. US SUGGESTED BEST WAY GETTING INTO SPECIFIC SECTORS IF NECESSARY WOULD BE TO HAVE REVIEW, PERHAPS IN JULY OR LATER, TO LOOK AT HOW GENERAL RULES AFFECT SENSITIVE PRODUCTS OR FALL SHORT OF LIBERALIZATION POSSIBILITIES IN PARTICULAR AREAS. (IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELS, WE CITED THIS APPROACH AS ONE ACCEPTABLE WAY OF GETTING INTO AGRICULTURAL ISSUES.) MAJOR DISSENTERS TO SLOW PACE ON SECTORS WERE CANADA, AUSTRALIA, PAKISTAN, WHO WANTED SPECIFIC WORK BEGIN AT SAME TIME AS OTHER PARTS OF MTN. CANADA SAID "COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH" OF SECTORS INTENDED TO DO MORE, NOT LESS, ON LIBERALIZATION. AT TNC CANADA WOULD SUGGEST SPECIFIC SECTORS WHERE WORK SHOULD BEGIN. (IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION CLARK IDENTIFIED SECTORS AS COPPER, LEAD/ZINC, NICKEL, WOOD PRODUCTS, PULP/PAPER, FISH; EXPECTING US TO PUT FORWARD HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND EC TO SUGGEST AIRCRAFT. CANADA WILL ALSO LAY OUT APPROACH TO TARIFF ESCALATION AND SECTOR-SPECIFIC NTBS.) RESPONDING TO RESISTANCE OF MAJOR DCS, CANADA WARNED IT COULD JOIN DISCUSSION SUPPLY ISSUES DESIRED BY OTHERS (SEE PAR 8 BELOW) ONLY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTEXT OF SECTORS WORK.

7. SAFEGUARDS. AS WITH SECTORS, MOST SPEAKERS FAVORED SLOW START ON SAFEGUARDS AND ECHOED US OBSERVATION THAT

THERE WAS BASIC QUESTION OF BALANCE BETWEEN FLEXIBILITY NEEDED TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER LIBERALIZATION AND ASSURE THAT CONCESSIONS COULD BE PRESERVED. AUSTRALIA SAW EFFORT ON SAFEGUARDS AS INTEGRAL TO WORK ON TARIFFS, NTBS, SECTORS, ETC. DG REMINDED GROUP THAT NOVEMBER SECRETARIAL QUESTIONNAIRE ON NATIONAL SAFEGUARDS MEASURES SHOULD HELP MORE PRECISE EXAMINATION OF PROBLEMS, BUT ONLY SIX RESPONSES IN AS YET.

8. SUPPLY ISSUES. DG SAW MAIN PROBLEM AS ONE OF DECIDING HOW TO LAUNCH COLLECTIVE DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT SUBJECT WHERE NO MTN PREPARATORY WORK. ACCESS TO SUPPLIES, EXPORT RESTRICTIONS, COMMODITY PRICE FLUCTUATION WOULD ALL BE INVOLVED. US, EC, JAPAN AGREED. CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, NOTING ABSENCE OF SUPPLY ISSUE FROM TOKYO DECLARATION, STATED PREFERENCE FOR HANDLING RELEVANT QUESTIONS UNDER APPROPRIATE TOKYO DECLARATION HEADINGS. FOR AUSTRALIA THIS MEANT EXPORT CONTROLS, QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND SIMILAR TOPICS IN TARIFF AND NTB FIELDS; FOR CANADA ISSUE WAS "SECURITY OF SUPPLY" AND WAS SUITED TO SECTOR APPROACH. LDC'S UNIFORMLY TOOK POSITION THAT SUPPLY ISSUES NOT IN TOKYO DECLARATION LACKED PREPARATORY WORK, AND UNCLEAR AS TO CONTENT, IF ANY. LONG SUGGESTED THOSE IN 7 PLUS 7 INTERESTED IN WORK ON SUPPLY ISSUES AND/OR SECTORS SHOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC IN FUTURE MEETINGS.

9. UNCTAD OBSERVER STATUS. JAPAN, EC, US, AND CANADA TACTIC REQUESTED BY EC AT PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING OF 7 DCS WITH LONG, ALL ENDORSED WHAT THEY SAID WAS FORMULA FOR UNCTAD PARTICIPATION IN MTN WORKED OUT AT SEPTEMBER UNCTAD TDB SESSION. THEIR INTERPRETATION WAS: (1) UNCTAD INVITED ALL FULL TNC MEETINGS UNLESS AD HOC NEGATIVE DECISION BY TNC ON A PARTICULAR MEETING; (2) INVITED TO SUBSIDIARY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ONLY IF ADHOC AFFIRMATIVE DECISION TO DO SO; (E) GIVEN ALL DOCUMENTS GENERAL AVAILABLE MTN PARTICIPANTS; (4) EXCLUDED FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATING SESSIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL NEGOTIATING DOCUMENTS. ARGENTINA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN RESERVED ON THIS FORMULA, WITH LATTER DEL SAYING PROPOSED SOLUTION DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. IMPLICATION OF FURTHER PAKISTAN REMARKS WAS THAT FULL UNCTAD PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS WAS ONLY SOLUTION. ISSUE REMAINS OPEN. (BRAZIL, ALTHOUGH IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT DAY, STAYED SILENT ON THIS ISSUE ON ALL OTHERS.)

10. OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS. LDCS, PARTICULARLY ARGENTINA AND PAKISTAN, COMPLAINED THEY DISADVANTAGED

BY NOT KNOWING "RULES OF NEGOTIATION" IN ADVANCE OF
SUBSTANTIVE WORK. LDCS HAD HAD NO SAY IN RULES OF
KENNEDY ROUND, FOUND SOME CONCESSIONS WITHDRAWN AT END
OF ROUND, OTHERS NEVER IMPLEMENTED. IN THIS LIGHT
PROCEDURES MORE IMPORTANT TO LDCS AT THIS STAGE THAN
SUBSTANCE, AND IMPORTANT TO GET RULES ESTABLISHED AT
OUTSET. (IN SAME CONTEXT, MEXICO RECALLED PREVIOUSLY
STATED INTEREST IN REVISION OF GATT RULES.) AT
ARGENTINA'S REQUEST, SECRETARIAT WILL DO BRIEF PAPER
FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL MTN DELS ON NEGOTIATING
PROCEDURES DURING KENNEDY AND DILLION ROUNDS AS BACK-
GROUND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION PROCEDURAL ISSUES.

11. NEXT 7 PLUS 7 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 30
AT 10 A.M. WITH POSSIBILITY CONTINUING INTO AFTERNOON.
ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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